

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[4]], wherein the pad comprises a touch pad.
3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[2]], wherein the touch pad comprises an N-wire-technology touch pad.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the touch pad comprises a four-wire-technology touch pad.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the touch pad comprises a seven-wire-technology touch pad.
6. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[4]], wherein the pad comprises a touch screen.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[4]], wherein the pad comprises a pad for entering a personal identifier (PIN).

8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[4]], wherein the encrypting circuit comprises

a CPU; and

a memory, coupled to the CPU and programmed to encrypt.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the CPU and programmed memory are the first CPU, programmable to encrypt the entered identifier, through which the identifier passes.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[4]], wherein the encrypting circuit comprises

a microcontroller programmed to encrypt.

11. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[4]], wherein the encrypting circuit comprises

an application-specific integrated circuit (ASIC).

12. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[4]], further comprising
~~a housing enclosing the encrypting circuit and link and~~ wherein the housing is resistant to access.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the housing comprises
housing resistant to tampering.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the housing comprises
housing resistant to tapping.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~The apparatus of claim 12,~~ An apparatus for encrypting an identifier, the apparatus comprising:

a pad for entering an identifier;

a circuit, adjacent the pad, for encrypting the entered identifier;

a link, communicatively coupling the pad and the encrypting circuit; and
a housing enclosing the encrypting circuit and the link, the housing formed at least partially
wherein the housing comprises
housing at least partially of using chip-on-glass technology.

16. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[12]], wherein the housing comprises
~~housing in which the encrypting circuit is embedded~~ in the housing.

17. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 15[[12]], wherein the housing comprises
~~housing in which the link and the encrypting circuit are embedded~~ in the housing.

18. (Original) An apparatus for encrypting an identifier, the apparatus comprising:
a pad, comprising one of a touch screen and an N-wire-technology touch pad, for entering a
personal identifier (PIN);
a circuit, adjacent the pad and comprising one of a programmed microcontroller and an ASIC, for
encrypting the entered identifier;
a link, communicatively coupling the pad and the encrypting circuit; and
a housing, resistant to access and at least partially of chip-on-glass technology, in which the link
and encrypting circuit are embedded.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for encrypting an identifier, the method comprising:
placing a
pad for entering an identifier,
a circuit for encrypting an identifier and
a link communicatively coupling the pad and the encrypting circuit
adjacent in an access-resistant housing formed at least partially using chip-on-glass technology;
entering a identifier on the pad;
communicating the identifier to the encrypting circuit; and
encrypting the identifier by means of the encrypting circuit.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of
forwarding the encrypted identifier for verification.

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21 – 22. (Cancelled)